Right censoring and left truncation are very common so our estimators account for it. Therefore, these estimators act as if they are “closed cohorts” even though technically right censoring & left truncation make the cohort open.

There’s another reason that thinking in terms of closed cohorts is critical. Often times we construct datasets using administrative data. Figuring out who to include and who to exclude (or who should be included, but is not available for inclusion in the administrative dataset) is essential. Thinking in terms of a closed cohort allows us to better understand the limitations and strengths of a sample constructed from administrative data. Ya Hui Yu used this strategy in one of her papers: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6657564/>

Technically, an estimator is consistent if difference between truth and estimate is   
near 0 under an infinitely large sample size